# NEWS RELEASE
## BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**BLS**

## County Employment and Wages in Texas – Third Quarter 2017

Employment rose in 20 of the 25 largest counties in Texas from September 2016 to September 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2016 annual average employment.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that Midland and Montgomery Counties ranked among the top 10 nationwide for job growth. The 10.4-percent employment gain in Midland County ranked first and the 4.0-percent gain in Montgomery County ranked eighth. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, employment advanced 1.0 percent from September 2016 to September 2017 as 283 of the 346 largest U.S. counties registered increases. As noted, Midland County, Texas, had the fastest employment gain in the nation (10.4 percent). Within Midland, the largest employment increase was in natural resources and mining, which gained 4,526 jobs over the year (24.4 percent). Collier, Fla., had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment, down 5.2 percent. Within Collier, construction had the largest employment decrease, with a loss of 1,879 jobs (-12.8 percent).

Among the largest counties in Texas, employment was highest in Harris County (2,261,300) in September 2017, followed by Dallas County (1,691,100). Three other counties (Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis) had employment levels exceeding 700,000. Together, the 25 largest Texas counties accounted for 80.0 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 346 largest counties made up 72.7 percent of total U.S. employment.

From the third quarter of 2016 to the third quarter of 2017, average weekly wages nationwide decreased 0.6 percent to $1,021. Among the large counties in Texas, Midland had the largest increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 8.4 percent, which also ranked first in the nation in terms of percentage increase. (See table 1.) In the third quarter of 2017, Midland had the highest average weekly wage among the state's largest counties at $1,283.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 229 counties in Texas with annual average employment levels below 75,000 in 2016. Among these smaller counties, 213 had average weekly wages below the national average in September 2017. (See table 2.)

### Large county wage changes
Among Texas's 25 large counties, 5 recorded wage gains from the third quarter of 2016 to the third quarter of 2017. Midland County's 8.4-percent wage increase was the highest in the nation and Brazos (1.3 percent), Travis (0.9 percent), and Smith (0.6 percent) ranked among the top 50 nationwide. (See table 1.) McLennan

County ranked 52$^{nd}$ with a 0.5-percent wage gain. Twenty large Texas counties had over-the-year wage decreases. Cameron County had the largest decrease, down 3.0 percent, followed by Tarrant (-2.9 percent) and Lubbock (-2.7 percent). Nationally, average weekly wages declined 0.6 percent over the year.

Nationwide, 265 of the 346 largest counties had over-the-year wage decreases. Mercer, N.J., had the largest wage decline in the nation, down 8.8 percent. The Mercer, N.J., decrease was followed by Wyandotte, Kan. (-6.0 percent); Clark, Nev. (-5.3 percent); and Somerset, N.J. (-5.0 percent).

Of the 346 largest counties nationwide, 71 experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages. The 8.4-percent increase in Midland, Texas, was followed by Union, N.J. (+8.2 percent); Elkhart, Ind. (+6.5 percent); Forsyth, N.C. (+5.3 percent); and Maui + Kalawao, Hawaii (+4.6 percent).

**Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in 5 of the 25 large Texas counties were more than 15 percent above the national average of $1,021 in the third quarter of 2017. Midland County led at $1,283 per week and ranked 21$^{st}$ among the 346 large U.S. counties. Midland was followed by Harris ($1,247, 25$^{th}$), Dallas ($1,213, 34$^{th}$), Collin ($1,190, 39$^{th}$), and Travis ($1,188, 40$^{th}$). Two additional Texas counties reported average weekly wages above the national average: Brazoria ($1,074, 73$^{rd}$), and Jefferson ($1,052, 84$^{th}$).

Texas had a number of low-paying large counties. Three of the four lowest-paying large counties in the nation were located along the Texas-Mexico border: Cameron ($612, 346$^{th}$), Hidalgo ($649, 344$^{th}$), and Webb ($672, 343$^{rd}$). Other Texas counties with low national rankings included El Paso ($717, 337$^{th}$), Brazos ($775, 325$^{th}$), and Lubbock ($790, 313$^{th}$).

Nationally, weekly wages were higher than the U.S. average in 96 of the largest counties in the country. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of $2,320. San Mateo, Calif., was second at $2,123, followed by San Francisco, Calif. ($1,954), and New York, N.Y. ($1,889).

Among the largest U.S. counties, more than two-thirds (250) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the third quarter of 2017. The lowest weekly wage was reported in Cameron, Texas ($612), followed by Horry, S.C. ($633), and the Texas counties of Hidalgo ($649) and Webb ($672). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than 30 percent of the average weekly wage in the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif.

**Average weekly wages in smaller Texas counties**

Sixteen of the 229 smaller Texas counties – those with employment below 75,000 – reported average weekly wages above the national average of $1,021. Two of these smaller counties had wages that were also the highest in the state: Carson ($1,465) and Upton ($1,295). Delta County registered the lowest weekly wage, averaging $444 in the third quarter of 2017. (See table 2.)

When all 254 counties in Texas were considered, all but 23 had wages below the national average. Thirty-one counties reported average weekly wages under $650, 83 registered wages from $650 to $749, 61 had wages from $750 to $849, 41 had wages from $850 to $949, and 38 had wages of $950 or higher. (See chart 1.) The counties with the highest average weekly wages were located around the larger metropolitan areas of Dallas, Houston, and Austin, as well as the smaller areas of Midland, Odessa, and Amarillo. Lower-paying counties were concentrated in the agricultural areas of central Texas, the Texas Panhandle, and along the Texas-Mexico border.

**Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2016 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2017 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* are now available at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn16.htm.

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**The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.**

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**QCEW Publication Acceleration and Conversion to Two Data Releases**

The national QCEW publication process is accelerating for a more timely release. Beginning with the national fourth quarter 2017 release, QCEW data will be published in two parts. The current County Employment and Wages news release and associated data will be accelerated and published first. The full QCEW data release will occur two weeks later, accompanied by a data release notice.

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**Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.9 million employer reports cover 144.5 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised (see Technical Note below) and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons–some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year

comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the 25 largest counties in Texas, third quarter 2017**

| Area | Employment | | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|------|------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| | September 2017 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2016-17 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level [3] | Percent change, third quarter 2016-17 [2] | National ranking by percent change [3] |
| United States [4] | 144,464.4 | 1.0 | -- | $1,021 | -- | -0.6 | -- |
| Texas | 12,008.9 | 1.4 | -- | 1,032 | 12 | -1.0 | 29 |
| Bell, Texas | 117.5 | 0.3 | 244 | 863 | 248 | -0.3 | 98 |
| Bexar, Texas | 857.8 | 1.3 | 114 | 905 | 194 | -0.7 | 133 |
| Brazoria, Texas | 107.2 | -1.9 | 342 | 1,074 | 73 | -0.9 | 150 |
| Brazos, Texas | 102.9 | 1.4 | 104 | 775 | 325 | 1.3 | 27 |
| Cameron, Texas | 138.2 | 0.4 | 233 | 612 | 346 | -3.0 | 311 |
| Collin, Texas | 398.0 | 3.3 | 16 | 1,190 | 39 | -0.7 | 133 |
| Dallas, Texas | 1,691.1 | 1.9 | 67 | 1,213 | 34 | -1.9 | 245 |
| Denton, Texas | 239.6 | 3.0 | 24 | 929 | 180 | -2.5 | 285 |
| El Paso, Texas | 300.9 | 0.8 | 182 | 717 | 337 | -1.5 | 208 |
| Fort Bend, Texas | 177.3 | 0.9 | 167 | 942 | 167 | -2.0 | 256 |
| Galveston, Texas | 108.5 | -0.1 | 287 | 886 | 216 | -1.3 | 186 |
| Harris, Texas | 2,261.3 | 0.1 | 270 | 1,247 | 25 | -1.7 | 231 |
| Hidalgo, Texas | 252.7 | 1.6 | 80 | 649 | 344 | -0.6 | 121 |
| Jefferson, Texas | 119.7 | -2.3 | 344 | 1,052 | 84 | -1.4 | 195 |
| Lubbock, Texas | 139.1 | 1.3 | 114 | 790 | 313 | -2.7 | 300 |
| McLennan, Texas | 112.5 | 0.4 | 233 | 841 | 275 | 0.5 | 52 |
| Midland, Texas | 91.4 | 10.4 | 1 | 1,283 | 21 | 8.4 | 1 |
| Montgomery, Texas | 176.4 | 4.0 | 8 | 1,003 | 112 | -0.5 | 111 |
| Nueces, Texas | 160.5 | -0.7 | 314 | 883 | 223 | -0.2 | 90 |
| Potter, Texas | 78.0 | -0.8 | 321 | 821 | 289 | -1.0 | 156 |
| Smith, Texas | 102.4 | 0.9 | 167 | 843 | 272 | 0.6 | 49 |
| Tarrant, Texas | 877.8 | 2.3 | 48 | 1,000 | 113 | -2.9 | 307 |
| Travis, Texas | 728.0 | 2.6 | 32 | 1,188 | 40 | 0.9 | 37 |
| Webb, Texas | 100.1 | 1.2 | 132 | 672 | 343 | -1.0 | 156 |
| Williamson, Texas | 164.6 | 2.9 | 27 | 1,010 | 108 | -1.3 | 186 |

Footnotes:
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.
(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, 3rd quarter 2017**

| Area | Employment September 2017 | Average weekly wage[1] |
|---|---|---|
| United States[2] | 144,464,425 | $1,021 |
| Texas | 12,008,941 | 1,032 |
| Anderson | 20,134 | 792 |
| Andrews | 7,307 | 1,167 |
| Angelina | 35,386 | 742 |
| Aransas | 4,935 | 741 |
| Archer | 1,764 | 691 |
| Armstrong | 363 | 696 |
| Atascosa | 12,551 | 902 |
| Austin | 9,946 | 857 |
| Bailey | 2,628 | 708 |
| Bandera | 3,081 | 671 |
| Bastrop | 17,886 | 706 |
| Baylor | 1,222 | 658 |
| Bee | 8,677 | 688 |
| Bell | 117,456 | 863 |
| Bexar | 857,771 | 905 |
| Blanco | 3,207 | 927 |
| Borden | 179 | 671 |
| Bosque | 3,680 | 695 |
| Bowie | 41,180 | 761 |
| Brazoria | 107,193 | 1,074 |
| Brazos | 102,944 | 775 |
| Brewster | 3,740 | 749 |
| Briscoe | 307 | 553 |
| Brooks | 2,440 | 803 |
| Brown | 15,863 | 703 |
| Burleson | 4,225 | 797 |
| Burnet | 13,805 | 784 |
| Caldwell | 8,503 | 727 |
| Calhoun | 10,788 | 1,203 |
| Callahan | 2,273 | 746 |
| Cameron | 138,203 | 612 |
| Camp | 3,867 | 692 |
| Carson | 4,737 | 1,465 |
| Cass | 7,417 | 704 |
| Castro | 2,514 | 687 |
| Chambers | 14,379 | 1,145 |
| Cherokee | 14,116 | 673 |
| Childress | 2,478 | 690 |
| Clay | 1,351 | 665 |
| Cochran | 639 | 719 |
| Coke | 689 | 656 |
| Coleman | 2,136 | 576 |
| Collin | 398,037 | 1,190 |
| Collingsworth | 812 | 767 |
| Colorado | 6,902 | 764 |
| Comal | 54,779 | 782 |
| Comanche | 3,572 | 629 |
| Concho | 630 | 862 |
| Cooke | 14,036 | 841 |
| Coryell | 17,507 | 768 |
| Cottle | 385 | 712 |
| Crane | 1,125 | 965 |
| Crockett | 1,560 | 745 |
| Crosby | 1,429 | 635 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, 3rd quarter 2017 - Continued**

| Area | Employment September 2017 | Average weekly wage[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Culberson | 1,027 | 937 |
| Dallam | 4,633 | 776 |
| Dallas | 1,691,095 | 1,213 |
| Dawson | 4,210 | 724 |
| De Witt | 7,614 | 874 |
| Deaf Smith | 7,409 | 774 |
| Delta | 1,111 | 444 |
| Denton | 239,647 | 929 |
| Dickens | 451 | 634 |
| Dimmit | 5,987 | 987 |
| Donley | 909 | 586 |
| Duval | 3,288 | 737 |
| Eastland | 7,303 | 906 |
| Ector | 72,681 | 1,081 |
| Edwards | 413 | 613 |
| El Paso | 300,882 | 717 |
| Ellis | 49,417 | 807 |
| Erath | 16,824 | 667 |
| Falls | 3,165 | 648 |
| Fannin | 7,424 | 744 |
| Fayette | 9,337 | 749 |
| Fisher | 892 | 782 |
| Floyd | 1,641 | 676 |
| Foard | 399 | 551 |
| Fort Bend | 177,290 | 942 |
| Franklin | 2,978 | 802 |
| Freestone | 4,857 | 778 |
| Frio | 6,733 | 931 |
| Gaines | 6,388 | 888 |
| Galveston | 108,472 | 886 |
| Garza | 1,823 | 723 |
| Gillespie | 10,594 | 694 |
| Glasscock | 522 | 719 |
| Goliad | 1,279 | 685 |
| Gonzales | 6,983 | 783 |
| Gray | 7,647 | 916 |
| Grayson | 45,830 | 792 |
| Gregg | 73,711 | 866 |
| Grimes | 7,053 | 870 |
| Guadalupe | 41,873 | 797 |
| Hale | 11,860 | 693 |
| Hall | 776 | 544 |
| Hamilton | 2,474 | 685 |
| Hansford | 2,166 | 937 |
| Hardeman | 1,226 | 659 |
| Hardin | 12,344 | 771 |
| Harris | 2,261,291 | 1,247 |
| Harrison | 22,794 | 880 |
| Hartley | 2,663 | 738 |
| Haskell | 1,590 | 640 |
| Hays | 66,949 | 751 |
| Hemphill | 2,395 | 994 |
| Henderson | 16,841 | 676 |
| Hidalgo | 252,686 | 649 |
| Hill | 10,146 | 752 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, 3rd quarter 2017 - Continued**

| Area | Employment September 2017 | Average weekly wage(1) |
|---|---|---|
| Hockley | 9,730 | 946 |
| Hood | 15,771 | 780 |
| Hopkins | 12,521 | 739 |
| Houston | 7,303 | 865 |
| Howard | 12,653 | 910 |
| Hudspeth | 1,028 | 1,123 |
| Hunt | 29,440 | 1,007 |
| Hutchinson | 8,199 | 1,085 |
| Irion | 742 | 1,216 |
| Jack | 3,094 | 888 |
| Jackson | 5,827 | 798 |
| Jasper | 9,900 | 757 |
| Jeff Davis | 895 | 649 |
| Jefferson | 119,748 | 1,052 |
| Jim Hogg | 1,690 | 736 |
| Jim Wells | 15,645 | 840 |
| Johnson | 46,742 | 820 |
| Jones | 3,102 | 711 |
| Karnes | 5,791 | 940 |
| Kaufman | 31,645 | 783 |
| Kendall | 15,511 | 909 |
| Kenedy | 585 | 1,060 |
| Kent | 283 | 633 |
| Kerr | 17,683 | 789 |
| Kimble | 1,285 | 577 |
| King | 81 | 735 |
| Kinney | 778 | 895 |
| Kleberg | 11,354 | 744 |
| Knox | 1,115 | 857 |
| La Salle | 3,421 | 1,162 |
| Lamar | 21,395 | 820 |
| Lamb | 3,943 | 721 |
| Lampasas | 4,438 | 634 |
| Lavaca | 5,496 | 702 |
| Lee | 7,375 | 998 |
| Leon | 4,738 | 908 |
| Liberty | 16,817 | 815 |
| Limestone | 7,639 | 741 |
| Lipscomb | 1,281 | 784 |
| Live Oak | 4,020 | 993 |
| Llano | 4,658 | 702 |
| Loving | 87 | 862 |
| Lubbock | 139,141 | 790 |
| Lynn | 1,567 | 811 |
| Madison | 4,601 | 720 |
| Marion | 2,109 | 626 |
| Martin | 1,977 | 927 |
| Mason | 1,074 | 615 |
| Matagorda | 10,743 | 950 |
| Maverick | 17,504 | 630 |
| McCulloch | 2,923 | 756 |
| McLennan | 112,489 | 841 |
| McMullen | 492 | 1,006 |
| Medina | 9,779 | 677 |
| Menard | 401 | 515 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, 3rd quarter 2017 - Continued**

| Area | Employment September 2017 | Average weekly wage[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Midland | 91,435 | 1,283 |
| Milam | 5,516 | 788 |
| Mills | 1,305 | 610 |
| Mitchell | 2,061 | 747 |
| Montague | 4,803 | 769 |
| Montgomery | 176,379 | 1,003 |
| Moore | 10,764 | 826 |
| Morris | 3,514 | 881 |
| Motley | 325 | 496 |
| Nacogdoches | 22,361 | 697 |
| Navarro | 16,303 | 716 |
| Newton | 1,240 | 686 |
| Nolan | 5,939 | 793 |
| Nueces | 160,506 | 883 |
| Ochiltree | 4,503 | 869 |
| Oldham | 905 | 722 |
| Orange | 20,947 | 987 |
| Palo Pinto | 8,826 | 793 |
| Panola | 8,643 | 876 |
| Parker | 32,267 | 857 |
| Parmer | 5,850 | 785 |
| Pecos | 5,545 | 854 |
| Polk | 10,880 | 731 |
| Potter | 78,011 | 821 |
| Presidio | 2,050 | 834 |
| Rains | 1,843 | 593 |
| Randall | 30,257 | 780 |
| Reagan | 1,916 | 1,181 |
| Real | 711 | 464 |
| Red River | 2,705 | 652 |
| Reeves | 5,840 | 956 |
| Refugio | 2,345 | 696 |
| Roberts | 253 | 898 |
| Robertson | 4,139 | 827 |
| Rockwall | 29,590 | 789 |
| Runnels | 2,803 | 663 |
| Rusk | 13,165 | 808 |
| Sabine | 2,298 | 696 |
| San Augustine | 1,750 | 699 |
| San Jacinto | 2,081 | 655 |
| San Patricio | 18,566 | 888 |
| San Saba | 1,718 | 677 |
| Schleicher | 722 | 827 |
| Scurry | 6,494 | 1,000 |
| Shackelford | 1,269 | 900 |
| Shelby | 8,068 | 691 |
| Sherman | 989 | 790 |
| Smith | 102,424 | 843 |
| Somervell | 3,797 | 1,008 |
| Starr | 15,220 | 565 |
| Stephens | 3,198 | 682 |
| Sterling | 529 | 801 |
| Stonewall | 509 | 742 |
| Sutton | 1,891 | 1,202 |
| Swisher | 1,901 | 638 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Texas, 3rd quarter 2017 - Continued**

| Area | Employment September 2017 | Average weekly wage(1) |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Tarrant | 877,755 | 1,000 |
| Taylor | 61,045 | 772 |
| Terrell | 280 | 825 |
| Terry | 3,758 | 874 |
| Throckmorton | 422 | 549 |
| Titus | 15,874 | 697 |
| Tom Green | 47,287 | 762 |
| Travis | 727,953 | 1,188 |
| Trinity | 2,262 | 650 |
| Tyler | 3,646 | 667 |
| Upshur | 6,687 | 675 |
| Upton | 1,522 | 1,295 |
| Uvalde | 9,904 | 627 |
| Val Verde | 17,427 | 697 |
| Van Zandt | 10,920 | 630 |
| Victoria | 37,841 | 843 |
| Walker | 24,449 | 756 |
| Waller | 15,813 | 845 |
| Ward | 4,595 | 1,087 |
| Washington | 14,676 | 746 |
| Webb | 100,130 | 672 |
| Wharton | 15,648 | 733 |
| Wheeler | 2,000 | 749 |
| Wichita | 53,833 | 735 |
| Wilbarger | 5,798 | 695 |
| Willacy | 3,456 | 665 |
| Williamson | 164,589 | 1,010 |
| Wilson | 8,135 | 702 |
| Winkler | 2,745 | 1,119 |
| Wise | 19,403 | 835 |
| Wood | 9,962 | 684 |
| Yoakum | 3,831 | 1,070 |
| Young | 6,719 | 777 |
| Zapata | 3,573 | 894 |
| Zavala | 2,408 | 663 |

Footnotes:
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.
(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.
Note: Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

## Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2017

| State | Employment | | Average weekly wage [1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | September 2017 (thousands) | Percent change, September 2016-17 | Average weekly wage | National ranking by level | Percent change, third quarter 2016-17 | National ranking by percent change |
| United States [2] | 144,464.4 | 1.0 | $1,021 | -- | -0.6 | -- |
| Alabama | 1,941.1 | 0.8 | 859 | 37 | -1.3 | 38 |
| Alaska | 335.4 | -0.7 | 1,025 | 15 | -2.8 | 50 |
| Arizona | 2,760.1 | 2.4 | 948 | 24 | -0.2 | 10 |
| Arkansas | 1,213.0 | 0.6 | 788 | 49 | -0.6 | 19 |
| California | 17,153.4 | 1.7 | 1,215 | 4 | 0.5 | 4 |
| Colorado | 2,625.9 | 1.9 | 1,067 | 9 | 0.5 | 4 |
| Connecticut | 1,676.3 | 0.1 | 1,179 | 6 | -2.2 | 47 |
| Delaware | 443.0 | 0.4 | 1,026 | 14 | 0.4 | 6 |
| District of Columbia | 764.7 | 0.7 | 1,759 | 1 | 1.3 | 2 |
| Florida | 8,305.8 | -0.2 | 896 | 29 | -1.1 | 31 |
| Georgia | 4,343.5 | 1.3 | 961 | 21 | -0.9 | 27 |
| Hawaii | 652.5 | 0.4 | 953 | 22 | -0.3 | 13 |
| Idaho | 722.3 | 2.7 | 778 | 50 | -0.5 | 16 |
| Illinois | 5,969.6 | 0.5 | 1,057 | 10 | -0.3 | 13 |
| Indiana | 3,044.0 | 0.6 | 861 | 36 | -0.6 | 19 |
| Iowa | 1,546.1 | -0.2 | 855 | 38 | -2.2 | 47 |
| Kansas | 1,376.4 | -0.1 | 839 | 41 | -2.1 | 46 |
| Kentucky | 1,890.4 | 0.5 | 837 | 42 | -2.4 | 49 |
| Louisiana | 1,904.3 | -0.1 | 869 | 33 | -1.7 | 42 |
| Maine | 621.9 | 0.7 | 821 | 46 | -0.5 | 16 |
| Maryland | 2,661.8 | 0.5 | 1,105 | 8 | -1.7 | 42 |
| Massachusetts | 3,568.0 | 0.9 | 1,265 | 2 | -0.9 | 27 |
| Michigan | 4,334.3 | 0.9 | 964 | 20 | -1.1 | 31 |
| Minnesota | 2,883.0 | 1.1 | 1,030 | 13 | -2.0 | 45 |
| Mississippi | 1,129.1 | -0.1 | 729 | 51 | -1.4 | 39 |
| Missouri | 2,805.8 | 0.9 | 878 | 31 | -1.2 | 34 |
| Montana | 468.6 | 0.9 | 793 | 48 | 0.1 | 8 |
| Nebraska | 973.3 | -0.2 | 850 | 39 | -0.8 | 23 |
| Nevada | 1,337.7 | 2.9 | 914 | 26 | -3.8 | 51 |
| New Hampshire | 659.1 | 0.6 | 1,022 | 16 | -0.4 | 15 |
| New Jersey | 4,043.6 | 1.1 | 1,156 | 7 | -1.5 | 41 |
| New Mexico | 816.0 | 0.3 | 823 | 45 | -0.8 | 23 |
| New York | 9,329.8 | 1.2 | 1,219 | 3 | -0.2 | 10 |
| North Carolina | 4,348.0 | 1.3 | 904 | 27 | -0.7 | 21 |
| North Dakota | 419.2 | -1.0 | 953 | 22 | -1.2 | 34 |
| Ohio | 5,383.6 | 0.6 | 920 | 25 | -0.8 | 23 |
| Oklahoma | 1,593.3 | 0.7 | 843 | 40 | -1.2 | 34 |
| Oregon | 1,905.3 | 1.8 | 969 | 19 | -0.1 | 9 |
| Pennsylvania | 5,836.5 | 1.0 | 1,002 | 17 | -1.1 | 31 |
| Rhode Island | 484.5 | 0.8 | 973 | 18 | -1.8 | 44 |
| South Carolina | 2,027.2 | 0.8 | 828 | 43 | -0.5 | 16 |
| South Dakota | 426.2 | 0.4 | 803 | 47 | -0.7 | 21 |
| Tennessee | 2,953.3 | 1.1 | 903 | 28 | -1.2 | 34 |
| Texas | 12,008.9 | 1.4 | 1,032 | 12 | -1.0 | 29 |
| Utah | 1,444.1 | 2.6 | 879 | 30 | -0.2 | 10 |
| Vermont | 310.3 | 0.1 | 869 | 33 | -1.4 | 39 |
| Virginia | 3,843.6 | 1.0 | 1,053 | 11 | -0.8 | 23 |
| Washington | 3,343.4 | 2.0 | 1,208 | 5 | 1.7 | 1 |
| West Virginia | 694.0 | 0.2 | 826 | 44 | 1.1 | 3 |
| Wisconsin | 2,866.9 | 0.5 | 876 | 32 | -1.0 | 29 |
| Wyoming | 276.2 | 0.3 | 868 | 35 | 0.3 | 7 |
| Puerto Rico | 862.8 | -3.1 | 509 | [3] | -2.7 | [3] |
| Virgin Islands | 36.9 | -1.1 | 763 | [3] | -1.9 | [3] |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

# Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Texas, third quarter 2017

**Average weekly wages**
**(U.S. average = $1,021)**

- $950 or higher
- $850-$949
- $750-$849
- $650-$749
- $649 or lower

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.